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02AB131/ALBRP304US

REMARKS

Claims 1-31 are currently pending in the subject application and are presently under consideration. Claims 1, 21, 27, and 28 have been amended as shown on pp. 2-6 of the Reply. In addition, claims 4, 22, and 29 have been cancelled as indicated at pp. 2-6.

Applicants' representative acknowledges with appreciation the Examiner's indication that claims 2-19, 21-26 and 29-31 would be allowed if incorporated into the base claim including any intervening claims. Independent claim 1 has been amended to recite allowable limitations from claim 4. Independent claim 21 has been amended to recite allowable limitations from claim 22. Independent claim 27 has been amended to recite allowable limitations from claim 6. It was not necessary to incorporate the entirety of claim 1 into independent claim 27, because claim 27 provided sufficient antecedent basis for the specific limitations from claim 6 that the Examiner deemed allowable. Furthermore, independent claim 28 has been amended to recite allowable limitations from claim 29.

The herein amendments to the claims are believed to place this application in condition for allowance.

Favorable reconsideration of the subject patent application is respectfully requested in view of the comments and amendments herein.

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CONCLUSION


The present application is believed to be in condition for allowance in view of the above comments and amendments. A prompt action to such end is earnestly solicited.

In the event any fees are due in connection with this document, the Commissioner is authorized to charge those fees to Deposit Account No. 50-1063 [ALBRP304US].

Should the Examiner believe a telephone interview would be helpful to expedite favorable prosecution, the Examiner is invited to contact applicants' undersigned representative at the telephone number below.

Respectfully submitted,

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